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San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY



Proposition 1 Water Bond Workshops FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

August 2015

1. **Question:** What is the time frame that a project must be completed by? 3 years or 5 years

Answer: The Legislature appropriates funds from bond acts on an annual basis; a legislative appropriation for projects is generally valid for a five-year period

2. **Question:** What is the minimum and maximum amount of funding?

Answer: \$250,000 - \$2 million

3. **Question:** Will projects be competing against each other across the entire grant round, or will they be competing within each category?

Answer: They will be competing within each program category which consist of Urban Program, Mountains/Foothills, and Rivers & Tributaries

4. **Question:** Is there a matching requirement in order to apply?

Answer: No, but projects that have matching funds will be viewed as more favorable

5. **Question:** With the 10% set aside for planning projects, does CEQA have to be completed?

Answer: Depends on the project, but no, CEQA doesn't have to be completed. However, it should be part of the project task list that can be completed as part of the grant, if necessary.

6. **Question:** Will planning projects be scored the same as implementation projects? Based on the evaluation criteria, planning projects do not seem to be able to score very high.

Answer: Yes, they will be scored the same. However, the RMC will be setting aside 10% of the total amount of funds to go towards planning projects.

7. **Question:** Many cities do not have planning funds available to compete and submit projects that are shovel ready. How is this being addressed?

Answer: The RMC has provided funds in the past for planning projects. We'll do our best to connect cities with resources for planning-related assistance.

8. **Question:** Will the guidelines be the same for the \$100 million that is supposed to be shared with the SMMC?

Answer: The guidelines will probably change for the \$100 million funding pot, however, not too significantly. They will be consistent with the legislative language within the water bond.

9. **Question:** How will the \$30 million be spent? Will it be spent entirely within this grant round?
Answer: The \$30 million will not be spent within this grant round. However, that will be based on the number of bonds that are sold and made available to the RMC.
10. **Question:** Will community based organizations received extra points for community outreach?
Answer: See section under Environmental Justice, which awards up to 5 points for projects that show that community input was sought for a proposed project.
11. **Question:** How will the \$100 million be divided between SMMC and RMC? When will that be resolved?
Answer: We are being informed that those decisions may be determined in the Fall 2015
12. **Question:** Can the Conservation Corp Contract be considered a match? What is the process for contracting with the Conservation Corps?
Answer: The Conservation Corps contract cannot be considered a match, however, additional points (up to 5 points) will be provided to applicants that use the Corps for project implementation. The Corps must be consulted (See Appendix E: CCC and Certified Community Conservation Corps Consultation Document) prior to submitting grant application.
13. **Question:** What constitutes the most competitive project proposal?
Answer: One example can be a project that can include one or more water-related components, has multiple objectives consistent with the RMCs mission, provides matching funds and is ready for implementation.
14. **Question:** What is the RMC Territory? Can it be clearly defined?
Answer: Yes, generally it includes 68 cities, including 20 unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and Orange County adjacent to the San Gabriel River and its tributaries, the lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries, the San Gabriel Mountains, the Foothill Mountains, the Puente Hills, and the San Jose Hills area including, but not limited to, East Los Angeles. Refer to Public Resources Code 32603 for additional details.
15. **Question:** What are the scores needed to receive funds?
Answer: The scoring will be based on each program area and will vary. However the scores for each section are as follows: Urban=140; Rivers/Tributaries= 145; Mountains/Hills=130.
16. **Question:** We understand that points for Prop 1 grant proposals will be awarded for either contributing 50% matching funds or 100% matching funds. Are these percentages based on the amount of funding requested in the requested or overall project cost?
Answer: Matching percentages are based on the amount requested to the RMC. If matching funds exceed 100% and can complete the project, then a project will be viewed as highly competitive and may ultimately receive more points.
17. **Question:** Are guidelines shared by all conservancies?
Answer: No, every Conservancy has its own set of guidelines and grant programs.

18. **Question:** How much consideration will be given to watershed plans in points?
Answer: There are no specific points for watershed plans, however, projects that can refer to these plans will be ranked more favorably.
19. **Question:** Will application be available on-line?
Answer: Not in this grant round.
20. **Question:** Are retrofit expenditures allowed?
Answer: Yes.
21. **Question:** Are costs involving CEQA eligible costs?
Answer: Yes, particularly for planning grants.
22. **Question:** What size projects will get CEQA exemptions?
Answer: That is up to the applicant to determine as part of a project feasibility. The RMC does not determine whether a project will be exempt from CEQA.
23. **Question:** Can Proposition 84 funds be used to match Prop. 1?
Answer: Yes
24. **Question:** Can municipal funds be used to match Prop. 1?
Answer: Yes. Matching funds are encouraged from any other non-state funds, including federal, private funds, and in-kind funds.

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The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) is one of 10 statewide conservancies. Their territory spans portions of the Antelope Valley, the San Gabriel Mountains, a majority of Los Angeles County and Northern Orange County. Additional information about the Conservancy can be found on the website: www.rmc.ca.gov